

JSEC/CMT Minutes

9-24-2008

Attending:

Cara Ballard – Glacier Bank
Randy Holm – NWMT Human Resources
Andrea Wandler – FVCC-LCC
Dusti Thompson – Libby Area Chamber
Maria Clemons – LC Community Health Ctr
Kari Martell – Kootenai JS Workforce Center

Pam Rhodes – Achievements
Debi Davidson – KRDC/Bottom Line Acctg
Jessica Conrad – Montanore Minerals
Peggy Rayome – Kootenai Valley Headstart
Jamie Brebner – Homesteaders/Plum Creek
Johnette Watkins – Kootenai JS Workforce

Chairperson, Pat Pezzelle, was not able to attend so Johnette opened the meeting with introductions and updates:

Randy-NWMT Human Resources-They are busy with the WIA Adult, Youth, Displaced Homemaker programs and the Fuel Assistance program is gearing up for the season. They have a new, nationally certified, Mortgage Counseling program which is available to the general public. Kathy Kinsey will be doing the Mortgage Counseling.

Kari-Job Service – Job Service has been busy. There are 54 open jobs and we had 123 people in the door yesterday. Over the summer there was good success with the recent Hazwoper trainings we coordinated with the environmental contractors and the college. We co-enrolled people from the WIA Dislocated Worker program with participants in Randy's Adult program at HRDC and Voc Rehab. 21 people were placed in high paying jobs.

Peggy-KV Head Start– Hiring has slowed down. They have undergone a restructuring. Hired 2 new teachers; 3 of their 6 teachers now have Bachelor's degrees. They applied for a grant, and received \$14,250 to help their teachers obtain Bachelor's degrees. They are working on the refunding, continuation grant now and are trying to implement a cost of living increase for their staff. School started on the 10th with 101 kids but they still have openings for 4 year olds who are eligible for the program (130% of poverty level).

Maria-Community Health Center - Their summer was slower with lots of staff on annual leave. They now have 5 medical providers. Their two dentists left and they have two more beginning soon. In March they absorbed the Family Planning program and have had a 28% increase in the number of people using this Title 10 program. They provide clinics in the schools every two weeks.

Jessie-Montanore Minerals-Same as usual, waiting on permitting process. They are now treating water with their Discharge permit and have hired a contractor, Small Mine Development, who is employing 4-5 people. The Record of Decision on the Environmental Impact Statement is still probably at least a year and a half out.

Dusti Thompson - New Director of the Libby Area Chamber of Commerce – She is busy learning the ropes as Director and is also busy training her replacement for Assistant. The Chamber is attempting to implement the Horizon Program in Libby and will need about 30 community members to participate. This program, administered by the Northwest Area Foundation, walks a community through a feasibility study, agrees on a common goal, and qualifies communities to receive up to \$10,000 in grant funding for an identified community project at completion.

Jamie – Homesteader's Feed/Plum Creek – Jamie has added yet another enterprise to her

repertoire of business ventures. Homesteaders Ranch & Feed is running out of space and she has purchased the neighboring property which was formerly JD's Zip Inn. She is considering utilizing the existing building as a café and the rest of the property to for Homesteader's expansion. The café will have broasted chicken and may be called "The Feed Trough" since it is next door to the feed store. She wants to do her part to put area people to work. Homesteader's has added a women's Carhart line and is preparing for their Fall Sale.

Debi-KRDC/Bottom Line Acctg – KRDC completed the CEDS update. This was a big project but very important for community organizations applying for grants. The redevelopment of the Stimson mill site is continuing. They are working developing the infrastructure, electrical engineering, the environmental remediation and the rail line. They are not sure what will happen at the Stimson Finger Jointer if Stimson decides not to re-open it. Once the infrastructure is in place, they can begin marketing the site to more businesses. They do now have Jerry Okanski and Vaagen Brothers sorting logs at the site and Plum Creek may also begin some sorting there.

Andrea-Flathead Valley Community College-This fall has seen increased enrollment of younger people which is a good thing! On-line enrollments are also increasing. They are busy with their credit and non-credit classes. Just held Elderhostel and Fly Fishing.

Cara-Glacier Bank – It was a busy summer. They have 3 new employees. They are gearing up for the Paint it Pink campaign which raises money for mammograms for uninsured people in this community. Have had lots of inquiries lately about FDIC coverage.

Minutes

Last meeting's minutes were e-mailed out. Debi moved to approve and Jessie seconded. All in favor

Treasurer's Report – Andrea handed out the Treasurer's report. There is \$1105.68 in Savings and \$591.69 in Checking with no outstanding bills.

One Stop Proposal

Since Pat Pezzelle was absent, Johnette talked about the purpose and goals of the One Stop System and why it is important that our community have at least one certified One Stop Center. She explained that being a part of the community One Stop System can be important in applying for Federal grants, etc. She emphasized that it is up to the JSEC/CMT members to decide what the system should look like in our area to best meet our community's needs.

The One Stop application had been e-mailed to members and Debi moved to vote to accept the proposal, Jamie seconded the motion. Randy called for a vote and all were in favor. Randy announced that NW MT Human Resources is also putting together a proposal and would be getting it out in about a week. Debi said that members could look it over and Maria stated that a vote on that proposal could probably be done via e-mail.

501(c)3 Status – Debi Davidson

Vote - Articles of Incorporation

An e-mail vote had been taken on the Articles of Incorporation. Debi moved to accept them as written. Peggy seconded. Randy called for a vote. All were in favor.

MEDA Update – Debi Davidson

Debi announced that she is attempting to have Libby be the site for next year's MEDA conference and handed out a flyer, "Reinvesting in Montana's Economic Future" which outlines

8 Economic Development programs in Montana that provide assistance to businesses. The SBDC is currently without a director since Lad Barney received a promotion. We will miss him!

Debi announced that she is attempting to get the next MEDA conference scheduled in Libby. It would probably be next April but will take a community-wide effort and monetary or other donations to accomplish. The MEDA conference usually attracts about 100-150 people. They will hold the main conference at the college with other activities and presentations around the area.

Featured Employer – Achievements

Pam Rhodes talked about all the great things Achievements is doing. They employ 50 people with a payroll of over \$1 Million and provide services to 32 developmentally disabled clients. Wages to their clients are close to \$52,000. Achievements operates the Flower Creek Group Home, Montana Avenue Group Home, the Park Side Thrift Store, Montana Exposure and Sunshine Vending. Montana Exposure has a new line of junior clothing that is doing well. They are hosting the 2nd Annual “Illusion of Elvis” fundraiser featuring Danny Vernon who is a professional, and memorable, Elvis impersonator. Randy mentioned that Achievements has been extremely generous and helpful in providing clothing for those in dire need free of charge. His agency simply sends their clients down with a letter of authorization. This could be helpful for people who need appropriate interview clothing, children’s school clothes, or baby clothes. Achievements is a great example of a community minded business!

Feedback for Job Service

Jamie mentioned that she wished Job Service was open outside of the 8-5 timeframe. She noted that it is very difficult for small business owners to come in during those hours. Several other members agreed that being open earlier and/or later would be a great service to all customers for numerous reasons.

Other

Peggy mentioned that Jim Nys is now offering HR Training Webinars for \$25. This is a great value for our area and very affordable for any business.

Nominations for Officers

Debi stated that we cannot nominate officers until the 501(c)3 is completed.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 15th, 11:30 a.m. to 1 at the Venture Inn

Guest Speaker: Cynthia Zimmerli on Workplace Drug and Alcohol Policies